

Issue NE-CW1805, released May 2, 2005, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541 or e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov, Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending May 1, 2005, unseasonably cold temperatures impacted growing crops and slowed emergence of planted fields, according to USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. The cold nights lowered soil temperatures, with averages falling below the 50 degree threshold for corn germination across much of the western two-thirds of state. Temperatures in the low 20's reportedly damaged emerged sugarbeet fields in the Panhandle. Development of alfalfa was also affected.

Weather Summary: Temperatures for the week averaged between 13 and 21 degrees below normal, with the state averaging 16 degrees below normal. There was little to no precipitation throughout most parts of Nebraska, with the only measurable amounts falling on areas in the Panhandle and southern one-third of the state.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable:
Nebraska, Week Ending May 1, 2005

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
Percent				
Topsoil				
Very Short	1	1	9	11
Short	7	7	33	24
Adequate	86	78	58	62
Surplus	6	14	0	3
Subsoil				
Very Short	10	11	32	24
Short	27	27	41	38
Adequate	61	61	27	38
Surplus	2	1	0	0
Days Suitable	4.2	2.4	5.4	4.5

Field Crops Report: Wheat conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 5 poor, 27 fair, 51 good, and 16 excellent. Fields were 61 percent jointed, ahead of last year at 51 percent and average of 39.

Corn planting progressed to 34 percent planted, behind last year at 48 and average of 38. Corn emergence was at 3 percent, behind last year at 6 percent and average of 5. Planting was most advanced in the south central counties with near 70 percent of the crop in the ground.

Soybean planting had progressed to 4 percent, same as last year and near the average of 5.

Oats planted increased to 94 percent, just behind last year at 95 but ahead of the average at 91. Seventy percent had emerged, ahead of last year and the average at 64.

Sugar beet planting advanced in the west with 55 percent completed, behind last year at 80.

Alfalfa conditions declined and rated 1 percent very poor, 6 poor, 26 fair, 52 good, and 15 excellent. Frost damage was a concern , with lower first cutting yields possible in some areas.

Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending May 1, 2005

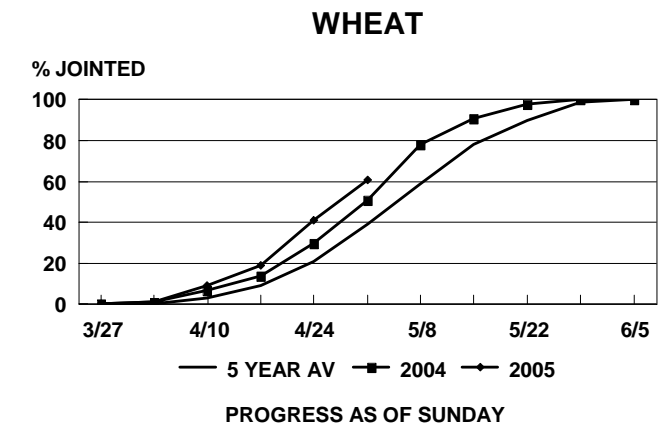
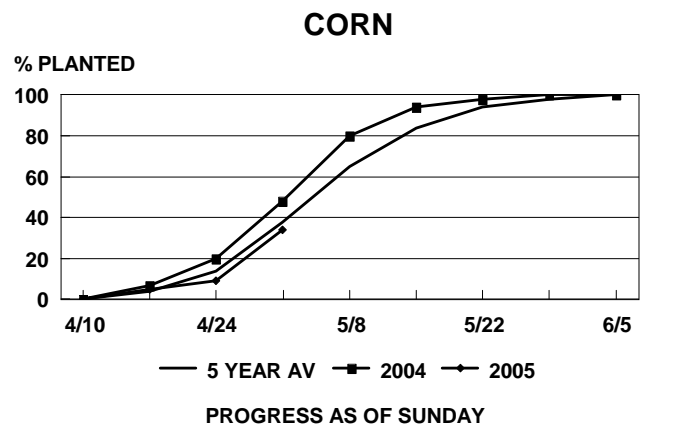
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
Percent				
Corn Planted	34	9	48	38
Corn Emerged	3	0	6	5
Oats Planted	94	91	95	91
Oats Emerged	70	57	64	64
Sorghum Planted	0	0	2	1
Soybeans Planted	4	1	4	5
Wheat Jointed	61	41	51	39

Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending May 1, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Alfalfa	1	6	26	52	15
Wheat	1	5	27	51	16

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition rated 1 percent very poor, 9 poor, 31 fair, 52 good, and 7 excellent. Cattle and calf condition rated 1 percent poor, 9 fair, 59 good, and 31 excellent. Spring calving was 95 percent complete with calf losses continuing to rate average to below average.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm. For those receiving an e-mail text version of this publication, a complete version including crop progress charts and precipitation maps can be found at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/2005.htm>.



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Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.32	.00	.01	.05	.07	.34	.21	.25
Total since April 1	2.75	4.20	4.25	2.06	3.73	1.47	1.51	4.19
Normal since April 1	1.85	2.20	2.62	2.50	2.80	1.97	2.13	2.87
Total as % of normal	150%	195%	162%	82%	133%	75%	71%	146%

Station		Temperature			
		Extremes		Average	Departure
		High	Low		
NW	Alliance	52	22	31	-20
	Scottsbluff	58	22	32	-19
	Sidney	54	23	31	-21
NC	Ainsworth	53	28	39	-16
	Arthur	53	25	33	-20
	O'Neill	54	30	40	-15
NE	Concord	56	29	41	-15
	Elgin	54	31	40	-15
	West Point	56	34	44	-13
C	Grand Island	58	30	40	-15
	Lexington	57	31	39	-16
	Ord	56	32	40	-15
EC	Lincoln	59	36	45	-13
	Central City	58	30	41	-15
	Mead	61	35	45	-13
SW	Champion	57	27	35	-19
	North Platte	56	28	37	-18
	Curtis	57	29	39	-16
SC	Smithfield	57	29	38	-17
	Minden	60	30	39	-16
	Red Cloud	58	28	41	-14
SE	Beatrice	59	32	43	-14
	Clay Center	59	28	40	-15
	Nemaha	62	35	46	-13

Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center and Nebraska State Climate Office

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